

Regular Meeting
Recreation Commission
Borough of Rumson

August 15, 2018

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 7:04PM.

Present: Jim Dengler, Chairman; Commissioners Kerry Chandler; Mike Cecil; Chris Hawke, Dan Bavuso; and Dorothy Whitehouse; Adam Cavise, Advisor; Kevin Delia, Recreation Director; Tom Rogers, Borough Administrator; Rob Swikart, Councilman and Laura Atwell, Borough Council President.

Absent: Margot O'Conner, Commissioner

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM LAST MEETING

- The minutes from the June 20th Recreation Commission meeting were presented. Motion to accept the minutes as written were approved by Chris Hawke and seconded by Dan Bavuso. All in favor.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Paul Eberhard, Rumson Rec Flag Football Coach was present to discuss the Rumson Recreation Commission's policy on pre-assigned assistant coaches prior to the player selection process and how that could hurt the coaches and their ability to coordinate practice sessions due to work schedules. Jim Dengler said that it shouldn't be an issue as long as the other coaches within each division are content with the balance of the rosters with regards to player's abilities. Dan Bavuso, Rumson Rec Flag Football Coordinator, added that the coaches typically are coming from New York City and prefer to have someone they know to handle starting practice or maybe filling in if they can't make it. Brian Gay, another flag football coach, came at the end of the discussion to provide support to Paul's argument.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

- Rob Swikart, Town Councilman and liaison to the Recreation Department, thanked all the Recreation Commissioners for meeting with him separately over the last few weeks. He went on to say that he was pleased to hear that everyone was on the same page as far as being part of this for the kids and wanted the best for their community.
- Dan Bavuso suggested that a letter be sent to the community to communicate the field arrangements for the fall season. Tom Rogers suggested that any letter wait until the following week due to the timeline of approvals. He suggested that Laura Atwell put together a letter and that it would be sent out through the Rumson Recreation email distribution list to the community.

- Dorothy Whitehouse asked that we add to next month's agenda the need for getting help managing travel sports programs. She also asked if there was a better way to communicate through the schools for facility reservations. Kevin Delia explained the process that he has followed and how things have happened over the years with the public schools. Tom Rogers provided some insight on how things are handled by the area schools and sometimes the recreation programs are last to know but generally the schools are very accommodating. Tom suggested reaching out to the RFH Athletic Department to find a solution to the fall scheduling for travel basketball.

GENERAL INFORMATION FROM DIRECTOR

- The treasures report for June was provided by Helen Graves, Borough of Rumson CFO to the Recreation Commission. A discussion continued surrounding the report and specific accounts.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Kevin Delia provided an update for the kindergarten soccer clinic and how we should restructure the program. Kevin met with the trainer that handled the clinic last year and he suggested to condense the session to 6 weeks and have a session just for the parents to start the program. Kevin explained that the attendance falls off after a few weeks and we should try to keep the interest up by shortening the program length. Mike Cecil brought up an idea about having a trainer come in to help with the 1/2 grade divisions as well. Chris Hawke added that the idea is to give coaches a greater confidence to coach at each level. The suggestion is to provide trainers to the 1/2 girls and boys soccer teams to help the coaches learn more ways to structure a practice session. Kevin said he would look into how he could make this work for the first week of the season. Dan Bavuso suggested we look into adding this to flag football as well. Kevin added that it would be great to get this in place for this season and if not he would start looking into for next season.
- Kevin Delia notified the Recreation Commissioners about the programs and grades that we are short for coaches for the upcoming season rec soccer and flag football. A conversation continued around who could be possibilities to fill the teams that were short.
- Kevin Delia notified the Recreation Commissioners about the changes he made to the flag football program for the upcoming season. He made an adjustment to the team totals to accommodate the increased participants in 5/6 grade and reduced the team total in the 1/2 division because of the reduced participants.
- Kevin Delia provided the Recreation Commissioners a spreadsheet of the fee structure for the RFH Rowing program as it pertains to each season. He explained that through this evaluation the fees were established to make this a self-funded program as all of the other programs in town function. Chris Hawke asked that we consider altering the fall program costs for this year as it is a large increase from the previous year. Chris then recommended the price be adjusted to \$525 and provide refunds to those that have registered already. Dan Bavuso seconded the motion. All were in favor.

- Tom Rogers provided an update on the Piping Rock Park project. He explained the origin of the project and showed the Recreation Commissioners the previous renditions of the plan dating back to 2014. He then told them about the newest plan to include baseball and tennis while maintaining the full-size soccer/lacrosse field. He said the project is currently out to bid and he is hoping the town can award the bid at the next town council meeting. Tom went on to explain some of the other future plans around town with regards to the parks and playgrounds.
- Tom Rogers discussed the policy to allow pre-determined assistant coaches. Dan Bavuso suggested that Kevin Delia have the ability to make the decision or at least discuss the possibility with the sport coordinator to allow it to occur in each sport. Dan provided the reason why the policy was adopted to not allow the pre-determined assistant coach. Chris Hawke suggested that the head coach petition for a specific assistant coach prior to the draft but it will be finalized after the draft based on the roster equality amongst the teams in that particular division and subject to approval by the Recreation Director.
- Dan Bavuso asked if we can discuss the possibilities of changing the late fee amount and possibility of changing the process. Kevin Delia provided the origination of the current late fee and what had been the policy in prior years. Dorothy Whitehouse suggested that the late fee be adjusted to 50% of the program cost or not to exceed \$50. All agreed to the modified late fee.
- Kevin Delia updated the commissioners on the outstanding balances on the trainer fee collections for both travel soccer and travel baseball. Chris Hawke suggested that the trainer fees should be managed through the Borough Recreation Department due to the unbalanced use of trainers amongst the travel baseball teams as it has been with travel soccer. Kevin stated that the fall registrations for travel soccer will incorporate the trainer fees that have been established from previous seasons, as well as the intended usage per week. A discussion continued surrounding the efficiency of finding a coordinator for Rumson Travel Baseball.
- Kevin Delia requested that the Recreation Commission approve the use of a trainer to manage the GU14 Rumson Girls Travel Soccer team this fall due to the loss of two head coaches during their existence as a team. Chris Hawke provided more details to the situation in that Matt Cheslock would take on the responsibilities to be the parent volunteer coach/manager and would be there on games days as opposed to having the trainer there without a coach. All were in favor to allow the trainer to act as the head coach but will have a parent on the sidelines for the games.
- Mike Cecil gave the Recreation Commissioners an update on where things stood with the Mid-Monmouth Travel Basketball League. Mike explained that much hasn't changed since the last meeting and the schedule will be changed to extend the season for the fall teams and condensed for the winter teams. He went on to explain the rationale for holding additional tryouts for certain teams. A discussion continued surrounding the possibilities of just adding additional players to the rosters as opposed to holding an additional tryout and the issues with holding another tryout.
- Kevin Delia provided the details for the 7u Travel Baseball tryouts for August 29th and the evaluators will Kevin James and his group. Kevin went on to explain that 3 people

have applied to be coaches of this team and he would present them for approval at the September meeting. Kevin asked that he has permission to propose a names for approval due to the timeline on the tryouts and the beginning of the season. All were in favor of Kevin presenting his choice as head coach at the next meeting.

- Kevin Delia gave the Recreation Commissioners the dates for the upcoming events, soccer coaches meeting, August 16th, 7pm, Bingham Hall, soccer referee meeting, August 20th, 7pm, Court House, flag football coaches meeting, 7pm, August 21st, and the Rutgers Coaching Clinic, September 11th, 7pm, Bingham Hall.

EXECUTIVE SESSION (closed session)

PERSONNEL ISSUES (closed session)

MEETING ADJOURNED at 9:23pm

Kerry Chandler made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Dan Bavuso. All in favor.

Minutes submitted by: Kevin Delia